

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3907
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Indian Prisoners Abroad
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Indian nationals lodged in foreign prisons, domicile-wise, sex-wise and offence-wise;
- (b) the total number of applications for repatriation received and total number of Indian nationals repatriated from foreign prisons since the enactment of The Repatriation of Prisoners Act in 2003;
- (c) the number of countries with which India has bilateral agreements in regard to repatriation of prisoners; and
- (d) the inter-ministerial process of interaction in this regard between different Ministries and Departments and the average time taken to process such repatriation requests?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

- (a) As per the information available with the Ministry, country-wise list showing the details is attached as Annexure. Due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even, countries which share the information, do not generally provide the detailed information about the Indians who have been imprisoned.
- (b) After the enactment of the Repatriation of Prisoners Act in 2003, 170 applications for repatriation have been received and 61 Indian prisoners have been repatriated from foreign prisons.
- (c) So far, India has signed bilateral agreements with 30 countries. Besides this, India has acceded to the Inter American Convention, by virtue of which, India can receive and send requests to the member countries as well as those countries who have signed/ratified the Inter American Convention.
- (d) The processing of cases of transfer of prisoners involves steps like nationality verification, security clearance, views of Narcotic Control Bureau, if drug trafficking is involved, identification of prison by the State/Union Territory Government, completion of documents process by the India/foreign Mission concerned and consent of the transferring/receiving Governments. Time taken to process an application for transfer depends on the completion of necessary formalities and documents by the concerned agencies and State/ Union Territory Governments.